

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2479

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5256

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, NL, GR, NATO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON
GREEK ISSUE WITHIN NATO

REF: THE HAGUE 5182 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DURING FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE NOVEMBER 29,
FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL SAID HE WOULD RAISE GREEK
ISSUE "ON OCCASION OF NATO COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS."
HE ASKED CHAMBER NOT TO TIE HIS HANDS WITH ANY SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS
SINCE SITUATION IN GREECE STILL IN FLUX. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE NOVEMBER 29(SEPTEL), FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL DECLARED GON WAS HORRIFIED BY PREVIOUS GREEK GOVERNMENT'S SUPPRESSION OF STUDENT-WORKER DEMONSTRATION. HE SAID SITUATION IN GREECE NOW STILL NOT CLEAR. WHILE HE SUSPECTED THINGS MIGHT GO FROM BAD TO WORSE, HE DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT. THEREFORE, HE ASKED PARLIAMENT NOT TO TIE HIS HANDS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT HE SHOULD SAY OR DO ABOUT GREECE IN UP-COMING NATO MINISTERIAL. VAN DER STOEL ARGUED THAT IF THE CHAMBER MADE SPECIFIC STATEMENT ON GREECE NOW THIS WOULD WEAKEN GON'S POSITION IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BENELUX, SCANDINAVIA, ITALY AND CANADA. FONMIN DECLARED ALL THESE COUNTRIES "IMPLICITLY BUT STILL QUITE CLEARLY" ENDORSED DUTCH CONDEMNATION (SIC) AT LAST NATO MINISTERIAL IN COPENHAGEN.

3. AFTER FONMIN'S PLEA, LABOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN DANKERT (CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) WITHDREW HIS NAME FROM A RESOLUTION OFFERED BY RADICALS (PPR). RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS NOT ACCEPTED, SAID GON SHOULD IMMEDIATELY DESIST FROM PARTICIPATION IN ANY NATO EXERCISES IN WHICH GREEK TROOPS PARTICIPATED. THOUGH HE OPPOSED THIS FORMULATION, FOREIGN MINISTER VREDELING ANNOUNCED GON WAS LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVE TO CRETE FOR DUTCH MISSILE TRAINING.

4. DURING QUESTION SESSION, DANKERT SPECIFICALLY ASKED VAN DER STOEL WHETHER HE WAS WILLING TO ALIGN HIMSELF WITH HIS NORWEGIAN COLLEAGUE WHOM DANKERT SAID WOULD CERTAINLY RAISE ISSUE OF GREECE IN MINISTERIAL. FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSED HE WOULD MAKE GON'S DISTASTE FOR NON-DEMOCRATIC GREEK REGIME CLEAR WITHIN NATO FORUM BUT REFUSED TO BE TIED DOWN ON WHETHER HE WOULD RAISE ISSUE WITHIN COUNCIL OR PRIVATELY ON MARGINS.

5. COMMENT: ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN CHAMBER INCLUDING CONSERVATIVE LIBERALS AND DS-70 DEPLORED SUPPRESSION OF STUDENT-WORKER DEMONSTRATIONS IN ATHENS AND LATEST COUP. FOREIGN MINISTER IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL PRESSURE TO TAKE MORE ACTIVIST ROLE THAN AT NATO MINISTERIAL IN COPENHAGEN. FROM HIS CONDUCT IN THE DEBATE, HOWEVER, VAN DER STOEL STILL MAY NOT HAVE MADE UP HIS MIND ON HIS BRUSSELS TACTICS.
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THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL, AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL, IF WE COULD SHARE OUR OWN THINKING ON AND EVALUATION OF RECENT EVENTS IN GREECE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PRIOR TO NATO MINISTERIAL.
TANGUY

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